QH meeting emphasizes 'local control'

Local control was the keynote during the Quartz Hill Incorporation Committee and Citizens Committee town hall meeting Tuesday night expressed by both committee members and local residents, despite controversy over the budget included in the petition for incorporation for the proposed city of Quartz Hill.

The proposed budget, originally presented to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), along with the petition for incorporation and the environmental impact report last April, has been examined by LAFCO and returned to the Incorporation Committee stating that incorporation did not appear to be financially feasible at this time.

Dr. Hassan Bacchus, Citizens Committee chairman, stated that the discrepancy is the result of LAFCO using standards for services based on needs of communities in the Los Angeles and outlying metropolitan areas.

Citing an example, Bacchus explained that LAFCO stated Quartz Hill should have the same police protection as the city of Palmdale. "We simply don't feel we need the same protection" Bacchus said. "Palmdale has two major roads going through their community — the Antelope Valley Freeway and Sierra Highway." "In addition," he said, "they have a much higher crime rate than Quartz Hill."

Bacchus indicated that the same opinion is held by Supervisor Baxter Ward, expressed by Ward during a meeting earlier on Tuesday. "Even Ward feels that criteria is not really applicable to our community" Bacchus said.

The second area of concern expressed by Bacchus was LAFCO's estimate of road maintenance of $230,000. The Incorporation Committee's proposed budget estimated $202,000 for the next fiscal year, he said.

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MERVYN'S TO OPEN — Dennis Nilsson, manager of the new Mervyn's store at 43889 15th St. W., pauses briefly amid the incoming merchandise while more than 200 employees hurry to ready the huge new store for opening to the public at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 9.

Mojave's growing pains cited at C of C meeting

MOJAVE — "The problem with this community is it is suffering growing pains, and we as a chamber are feeling them right along with the rest of the town."

This comment was made by Mojave chamber of commerce director Nellie Murphy during a directors meeting held Tuesday night, as the group was discussing recent turmoils which had erupted within the group and ways of keeping such problems from arising in the future.

Residents of the small desert community of approximately 3500 persons have enjoyed or "suffered" considerable growth of new businesses within the last five years, and are now looking toward the construction of a major shopping center just north of town.

Along with everyone else the chamber and its members must decide on the direction it wishes to take for the future.

As in any group, there are two (or more) schools of thought as to how things should be done — the "way we always have" — or "with new direction and fresh ideas".

Chamber directors have been on the defensive because of criticisms they have taken in recent weeks over the handling of bed tax funds for construction of a tourist center out of an old caboose.

An audit was ordered by the Kern County Board of Trade, and a report signed by Bill Jackson, Kern County Auditor, exonerated the group of any criminal wrongdoings, by stating the chamber of commerce complied "in substance but not in form", with rules and regulations.

The report itself made no recommendations. The board of trade officials said before the audit report was issued that if no wrongdoings were found there would be no reason why the group could not receive its 1981 bed tax allocation, which figures somewhere in the amount of $7300.

With that in mind director Bob Gray made a presentation to the rest of the board present at the meeting requesting the board of trade's approval for two projects in 1981, including a Welcome to Mojave sign north of town on State Route 14, and $6700 salary to be paid from July 1, 1980 to June 30, 1981 for payroll to a person for operations of the tourist information center at the caboose.

According to Gray the chamber was told by the auditor such a project was legal and would be a good way to insure payroll was met each week for someone to man the tourist center and chamber office.

Director Don Thompson told the group he thought they were taking a volunteer position and turning it into a $6000 per year job.

However, directors who had served on the board for a while told him there had never been a time when there was not a paid employee at the chamber, there had just been times in the past when employees agreed to be paid late, when other projects were due and the chamber coffers were low.

The two projects were approved by a vote of five ayes and two abstentions with Bill Berry and Thompson abstaining. Thompson told the group he needed "more information" on the salary project.

During other agenda items discussed directors set new dates for Gold Rush Days 1981 as the week of June 8-14. Directors moved the celebration up a month hoping for more predictable weather, and striving to keep the chamber with one fund raising event per quarter of the year.

The 1981 Citizen of the Year Contest will be held in October this year, but will move the date in 1981 up to March.

The Flea Market and July Fourth celebrations will remain in September and July.

Auto tire slashings reported

Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies yesterday were investigating a wave of tire slashings that occurred late Tuesday night or early Wednesday morning over a wide area of Lancaster.

According to deputies, the vandalism apparently was centered in residential area extending from Elm to Hardwood sts, between Ave J and Ave. J-8.

At least 20 reportings of slashed tires had been logged at the local sheriff's station by midday yesterday.

$2,400 loss reported

Theft of more than $2,400 in personal belongings from the Palmdale home of Denise Gilson, 20, sometime during the morning of afternoon hours of Aug. 4 has been reported by Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies.

According to Gilson, two rifles, a handgun, and jewelry valued at $2460 was taken by someone who entered her home by breaking out a bathroom window.

RUSH, RUSH, RUSH – A stream of workers rushed through the new Mervyn's store this week to ready the facility for opening at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 9. Dennis Nilsson, center, confers with a worker as more than 200 employees hurried to meet their deadlines.

valley press photo by gene brecknec

Mervyn's will open on Saturday morning

Mervyn's, a unique chain of retail stores specializing in clothing and accessories for the entire family, as well as a variety of merchandise, will hold an official grand opening of the new Lancaster store at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 9.

Highlighting the official opening will be balloons, two clowns and a dixieland band which will perform at the Lancaster store located at 43889 15th St. West between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. The new Mervyn's store will also celebrate with a grand opening sale that will begin on Saturday and continue throughout the following week.

The 81,000 square foot store will employ 200 people and carry a blend of merchandise of nationally known brands and its own private labels. Its goal is to have the largest selection of staple and fashion merchandise at prices geared to most families' budget.

Mervyn's, stationed between traditional department stores and the national chains, was founded in 1949 as a two-employee store by Mervin G. Morris. The 2800 square foot store began a chain which will now have 67 stores in six western states after the opening of the Lancaster branch. The store will work off of a computer terminal system which will encompass all sales transactions as well as replacing the traditional cash registers. The computer will also give inventory information, post purchases to customer charge accounts and give sales figures for each of the 12 major departments.

Mervyn's administrative offices are located in Hayward, Calif., as well as its central distributing center, which will be duplicated by a second center in Ontario, Calif. Goods are received from the manufacturers, processed at the distributing center, and shipped to the various stores in an average of three days. Mervyn's has been a subsidiary of the Dayton Hudson Corporation, the nation's seventh largest non-food retailer since 1978.

Mervyn's recently appointed Dennis I. Nilsson as director of the new Lancaster store. Nilsson was formerly assistant store director of Mervyn's in Modesto, Calif., after he joined the Mervyn's operation in 1977. He will reside in Lancaster with his wife, Patricia, and their five children: David and Carla, 13, Lisa and Tony, 11, and Damon, 5.

Mervyn's store hours will be from 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. This weekend the store hours will be 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Vote of confidence approved

MOJAVE — Following the recent "heat" which the Mojave Chamber of Commerce has been under due to an auditor's report over the chamber's bed tax fund uses, and criticisms of its secretary/manager Gail Becker, chamber director Bob Musgrave called for a vote of confidence to Becker at a recent directors meeting.

A motion was made by Musgrave and seconded by Bob Gray to take a "solidarity vote of confidence" from the directors present, saying the directors stood behind her "completely, and that they were behind me in everything which she had done."

A roll call vote was requested by Musgrave. Results were:

Bob Gray, yes; Ralph Baehr, yes; Nellie Murphy, yes; Grace Jackson, yes; Bob Musgrave, yes; Don Thompson, abstain; Bill Berry; abstain.

Cliff Becker, president of the group, was absent from the meeting, with Baehr, chairing the meeting.

Fenner escapee arrested

An 18-year-old escapee from the Fenner Canyon Conservation Camp, Christian L. Rhodes, of Riverside, was arrested early Tuesday following an attempt to steal a pickup truck from Stanley Mullen, 13250 Pearblossom Hwy.

The youth run from the truck after an alarm sounded. Deputies who were summonded discovered the youth nearby at a convenience market.

RALLY OF SUPPORT — A group of Mojave residents gathered in downtown in Mojave Monday at noon and marched in support of the chamber of commerce's secretary-manager Gail Becker. The impromptu rally was a total surprise to Becker, who dissolved in tears when the marchers, which numbered around 20, reached the chamber tourist center caboose. According to Bob Musgrave, who was among the marchers, "We just felt Gail needed to know that we are all behind her right now, that the chamber is experiencing some problems." Gail's husband, Cliff, is shown at her right holding all the placards which the marchers carried.

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